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THURSDAY, MAR 27, 1913

The Fort Lauderdale Herald scoffs at the idea of \$600.00 a year being an adequate salary for a county treasurer. Why, brother, the job in the biggest counties does not require more than five days work in each month and that, at the salary proposed, would be \$10.00 a day. Hang the responsibility! Make the entire county assume that by having the county commissioners designate the bank or banks in which the cash shall be deposited.

The Equity Of It

The lawyer-editor of Arcadia quotes the constitution as follows: "Every newly established county shall be liable for its proportion of the then existing liabilities of the county or counties from which it shall be formed."

Other lawyers who are not editors, but are equally as able as any in Arcadia, contend that this refers exclusively to bonded indebtedness, with which, fortunately, DeSoto county is not yet afflicted. They hold that the supreme court would take this view, if the question should come before that tribunal. At any rate, the commissioners of the new county would refuse to levy a tax to pay for a courthouse at Arcadia, in which event the Arcadia advocates only recourse would be to apply to the supreme court for a mandamus compelling the commissioners to levy the tax.

This would bring the question up on its merits in equity, when it would be shown to the satisfaction of the court that it was a proposition to make one man help pay for another man's property, in which the former had no interest whatever, and the court would undoubtedly decide that the constitution did not contemplate such an outrageous injustice.

But why waste brains and newspaper space wrangling over quibbles? Nothing that can be said or written on the subject of county division can change the views and

prejudices entertained in Arcadia nor convince those entertaining them of the selfishness and injustice of their attitude on this question. Nor can anything said or written in support of their views and selfish designs convert or frighten any thinking citizen of the proposed new county. In a few days, the question will be taken up at Tallahassee for final decision and any further argument should be made there.

Tourists and the Game Law

Some one having proposed the enactment of a very drastic game law, the Estero American Eagle objects to it chiefly on the ground that its enforcement would deter tourists from coming to this state. It is argued that we urge people from abroad to come and spend the winters amongst us and that the chief inducements besides climate which we offer them are the fine hunting and fishing to be enjoyed in our forests and waters.

Well, suppose we have no game law at all and invite the tourists to come and hunt ad libitum, without any restriction whatever: does not any one familiar with the conditions know that, within ten years, all the game would be exterminated and could no longer be offered as inducement to tourists? As it is, the present law is doing precious little to prevent the extermination that has been going on for the past thirty-five years. In 1877, when this writer first came to the state, he could take a walk of an hour or so south of Yalaha (now in Lake county) and, without much searching, find two or three deer, six or eight fox squirrels and a dozen coveys of quail. Now, it would take six men a week hunting carefully in that locality to find one deer, a single fox squirrel or two coveys of quail.

The same thing may be said of the region six miles northwest of Wildwood in Sumter county.

During twelve years residence in Punta Gorda, this writer has seen game getting scarcer and scarcer every year. The law afforded but little, if any protection. Pretty soon, all the game will be killed and, consequently, the tourists will quit coming and we shall have neither game nor tourists. Now, what shall we do?

We say, pass any law, no matter how drastic, that will protect and preserve the game. If it keeps the tourists away, we shall be very sorry, for they are very pleasant people. As contributing immensely to our social pleasures, they are unequalled, but as a financial investment, they do not pay big dividends to anything except the three-months hotels and the moving picture shows.

Now understand us: the pleasure-seeking tourists, while they spend much money amongst us, are not indispensable to the prosperity of the state. We want them to come and we cordially invite them, but we do not invite them with the mercenary design of getting their money, but for the sake of the excellent company they are. But, if we are compelled to choose between them and the game in our forests, with the prospect that if we choose them we shall shortly lose both them and our game, we are such an arrant "Cracker" that we will hug the game to our bosom, so to speak, and with tears in our eyes bid the tourists adieu.

The people who are hunting farming lands, home sites, business openings and investments and not deer, wild turkeys and quail will continue to come, God bless 'em! and help us build up the state.

Advising the Legislature

The newspapers which are offering a great many wise suggestions to the legislature, which will meet April 5th, omit one of the highest importance, and that is the adoption of the report of the commission appointed to frame bills designed to expedite justice by a reformation of our system of court procedure. The commission was composed of Hon. W. A. Blount of Pensacola, Hon. C. M. Cooper of Jacksonville, and Supreme Justice J. B. Whitfield of Tallahassee. They have made their report and it should receive prompt and earnest attention.

Incorporated in the report are the recommendations of the circuit judges looking to the same end. Copies of the pamphlet containing these matters can be obtained from any state official at Tallahassee.

Every member of the legislature should be urged to get a copy of this pamphlet and study its contents carefully. They are of paramount importance to anything that should receive the attention of the legislature.

Tampa and her people and newspapers, our senators and representatives in congress, the president of the United States and the officials of the treasury department, are hereby informed that the people of this entire section disapprove emphatically of the proposition to make Jacksonville the headquarters (or only port) for customs for Florida. If the customs districts must be consolidated as is probably right and proper, then Tampa is indisputably the right place for headquarters. Of many arguments to this effect that might be presented, one only should be sufficient and that is that the customs collections at Tampa are three times greater than those of all other Florida ports combined and are seventy-five times greater than those of Jacksonville. In view of this, it would be actually foolish not to make Tampa the headquarters.

Congressman Claude L'Engle is being highly praised here for his successful efforts in behalf of the improvement of Charlotte Harbor. After the proposition had been turned down by the government engineers, on request of our representatives the engineers agreed to grant a re-hearing to be held in Washington sometime this month. This would have put our people to considerable expense in sending up committees to represent them at the re-hearing and they appealed to Congressman L'Engle to use his influence to have the re-hearing held in Punta Gorda. This he did, with the result that the engineers agreed to have the re-hearing held here on some date yet to be fixed during next month. For this, our people feel very grateful to Mr. L'Engle are highly commending him.

Notice of Publication

To All Whom This May Concern:
Notice is hereby given that a bill will be introduced at the coming session of the Legislature of the State of Florida to amend section 21, chapter 5537, Acts of 1905 pertaining to the authorizing and issuing of bonds for the purposes therein mentioned, or for any other purpose as said bill may authorize, not to exceed 20 per cent. of the taxable property, real, personal and mixed, as shown by the tax assessment of the town of Punta Gorda at the time of the issuance of said bonds. ALSO, that section 1002 of the General Revised Statutes of the State of Florida, and all amendatory Acts thereto shall be amended in such a manner as to make the office of Marshal appointative by the Mayor and approved by the Town Council, instead of being elected as now provided by law. CITIZENS

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